

October 9, 2003

MEDIA ADVISORY – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**ILLINOIS SUPREME COURT JUSTICE PHILIP RARICK TO ADMINISTER OATH
OF PROFESSIONALISM TO NEW LAW STUDENTS AT SIU**

WHO: Justice Philip J. Rarick of the Supreme Court of Illinois

WHAT: Justice Rarick will administer the oath to first year Southern Illinois University law students during the induction ceremony. As part of a continuing program on the part of the Special Supreme Court Committee on Professionalism, justices of the Illinois Supreme Court have been attending at least one orientation session and administering to the incoming students at all Illinois law schools an "Oath of Professionalism."

The Supreme Court Committee also has encouraged and is facilitating additional orientation sessions for the incoming students on questions of ethics and professionalism. The idea behind the oath and the workshops on professionalism stems from a belief among justices of the Illinois Supreme Court that one of the most effective ways of improving professionalism among lawyers is to begin at the earliest steps with law students.

The Committee, which was formed by the Court in November 2001, also is continuing a series of town hall meetings with attorneys, judges and community representatives examining the need for professionalism and ways to achieve it. The statewide series of forums was launched September 10 in Peoria; a forum was also held October 8 at SIU School of Law and in Collinsville. Forums are scheduled in other Illinois cities, including Champaign-Urbana, Rock Island and Chicago.

WHEN: Friday, October 10 at 6:30 p.m.

WHERE: Carbondale Civic Center, 200 S. Illinois Avenue - Carbondale

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FOR MORE INFORMATION: Contact Joseph Tybor, press secretary to the Illinois Supreme Court at 312/793-2323 or Elizabeth Murphy, Director of SIU School of Law Student & Alumni Affairs, at 618/453-4811)